Degrading Mahatma Gandhi by MTV-US Network and 'Maxim' magazine

2407. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news caption "MTV ridicules using Mahatma Gandhi clone" which appeared in "The Hindu" dated the 30th January 2003;

(b) whether any action has been initiated on the reported action of MTV-US Network and American fashion magazines 'Maxim' degrading Mahatma Gandhi; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take up this matter in the appropriate forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Yes. Both the MTV-US network as also the Maxim magazine, which had earlier depicted Mahatma Gandhi inappropriately, have apologised for the offence caused by them. MTV-US expressed regret for the offense caused to the people of India and the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier, the Editor-in-Chief of 'Maxim' had also apologised in writing to our Embassy in Washington.

Export of Dual use Technology

2408. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has not so far removed barriers on the export of dual use technology;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far in this regard;

(c) whether the foreign secretary raised the issue with the US officials during his recent visit to US; and

(d) if so, what was their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Although the United States lifted the sanctions against India in September 2001, some restrictions continue to exist on export of "dual use" items from the United States to India.

(b) Government is engaged in a dialogue with the United States Government on easing these restrictions.

(c)Yes.

(d) The two sides signed a Statement of Principles to further promote and facilitate bilateral high technology commerce, including trade in "dual use" goods and technologies, on 05 February, 2003 in Washington D.C. The Statement reflects U.S. intention to address the regulatory and policy issues relating to exports of U.S. "dual use" goods and technologies to India.

Musharraf's Assurance to end cross Border Terrorism

2409. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in his speech on the 12th January, 2002 committed to end Pakistan's practice of supporting cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what has been Government's experience in this regard; and

(c) what diplomatic efforts have been made to ensure that Pakistan fulfills its commitments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) On 12th January, 2002 Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf declared that Pakistan would no longer allow its territory to be used for any terrorist activity anywhere in the world and that no organisation in Pakistan would be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Subsequently, on May 27 and June 6,2002 General Musharfaf committed to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis.